NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

Weekly Staff Newsletter
October 16, 1998

Of Snails and Georges

Rüdiger Bieler (Zoology) recently returned from fieldwork in southern Florida where he and Research Associate Paula Mikkelsen (American Museum of Natural History) studied molluscan diversity in the reef habitats of the Florida Keys. Armed with a brand-new NOAA collecting permit to conduct research activities in federal waters of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (even allowing for destructive sampling of reef structure to collect coral-dwelling boring bivalves), they made a number of very productive SCUBA dives in the offshore reefs, and were able to collect and document several species not previously known from that region.

The "special" equipment for this kind of collecting (sledgehammers, crowbars, suction pumps) played havoc with their usually carefully maintained buoyancy during the dives. The diving and dredging activities were cut short by the arrival of Hurricane Georges and the associated order to evacuate the Keys. After helping to secure several of the research vessels at a marine laboratory in the Middle Florida Keys (an area that subsequently received a direct hit by the hurricane), Rüdiger towed another boat trailer to a safer region in central Florida. Once Georges had passed (and proceeded to harass Zoology curator **Harold Voris** on the Alabama coast – but that's a different story), Rüdiger and Paula managed to reenter the Keys before they officially opened for traffic.

The 20-hour storm and 12-foot surge (on islands with an elevation of 6 feet) did serious damage to buildings and vegetation, but also provided unique collecting opportunities; even the highway was littered with dozens of marine molluscan species. It is too early to estimate the impact of the Hurricane on the health of the already strongly stressed coral reefs of the Keys, although preliminary data indicates that the shallow-water reefs of the Sanctuary sustained serious damage and fragmentation.

Submitted by the Academic Affairs Office

FIELD NOTES

Week of October 19

Public Events/Special Events

Chicago Mountaineering Club
- Monday 6 p.m., LH1

University of Chicago Committee
- Wednesday 1 p.m., LH2

Honeytree School
- Thursday 9 a.m., Clrm A

Music Theater Workshop
- Friday 5 p.m., Maori House

Asian Ceramics Conference
- Friday, Saturday, Sunday

Celebraçion
- Friday, Saturday, Sunday

Staff/Volunteer Events

Tuesday Noon Lecture Series
- Zoology Classroom

Aerobics Class
- Tuesday and Thursday 5 p.m., Outside Philippines exhibit

Employee Assistance Program Brown Bag Seminar
- Thursday noon, Dining Room C/D

Audience Research Initiative Brown Bag Lunch
- Thursday noon, Zoology Clrm

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Sophie and **Jon Twichell** had their adorable baby boy, Cameron, on Saturday morning, October 10, at 9:53 a.m. Everyone is very happy, and doing very well. Congratulations to the whole family!

Submitted by **Veronica Alexander**

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

David Elliott gives talk on morphology and feeding strategies of jawless fishes

On Thursday, October 8, Dr. David Elliott from Northern Arizona University gave a talk on the primitive jawless (agnathan) fish group, Cyathaspididae. This extinct family of agnathans is several hundred million years old, and known only by incomplete skeletons, so feeding strategies and mouth anatomy is yet unknown. Dr. Elliott, who is this country's leading expert on fossil agnathans, presented a number of hypothetical reconstructions of the mouth region, and reviewed the interrelationships among fossil agnathans. He mentioned that The Field Museum has the best collection of fossil agnathans in the U.S.

Lance Grande returns from three month sabbatical at the University of Massachusetts

Lance Grande, **Terry Grande**, and kids spent June, July, and August at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Lance, his colleague Willy Bemis, and two of Willy's graduate students prepared about 50 gar skeletons for Lance and Willy's next big project on living and fossil gars. The large specimens were prepared using a dermestid beetle colony with a taste for gar flesh that left only bones when they were finished. Lance learned what the term "fly-blown" means (you don't want to know). The smaller gars were prepared using a clearing and staining process that stains the bones red, the cartilage blue, and then makes the flesh and other soft parts transparent. Only living species were prepared in Amherst. The fossil material will be prepared in Chicago at The Field Museum.

Lance was also able to finish a number of smaller research projects while he was in Amherst. He was amazed at how much can be accomplished in a rural setting far away from one's office. While on sabbatical, Lance also spent a week at the American Museum of Natural History in New York (only a few hours drive from Amherst).

Terry Grande (Research Associate, Geology) also was on sabbatical (from Loyola University) and used the time in Amherst to learn how to make histological sections using a variety of techniques. All in all, the Grandes had a productive and highly enjoyable trip.

Museum Studies students visit Anthropology collections

Wil Grewe-Mullins, Anthropology Associate Collections Manager, and **Janice Klein**, Anthropology Registrar, hosted ten Museum Studies students from Knox College on Tuesday, October 6. Wil and Janice showed them some of the innovative storage systems that have been developed and also discussed changes in philosophy and techniques of the exhibition of anthropology and natural history collections.

EDUCATION

Volunteers needed to paint lockers at the Brian Piccolo Specialty School

The Education Department has been working closely with administrators and teachers at the Brian Piccolo Specialty School to develop a program aimed at improving literacy for Piccolo's third-grade students. In this way, Piccolo is a new friend of The Field Museum. This summer Piccolo, a public elementary school located in Humboldt Park, underwent a significant physical renovation. Although the school itself is much improved, a lot remains undone. If you can, please spare a few hours on Saturday, October 24, 1998, to brighten the halls with a fresh coat of paint. The students and teachers of Piccolo will appreciate your help!

If interested, please go directly to the school on Saturday at 8:30 a.m. Piccolo is located at 1040 N. Keeler, which is three blocks south of Division and four blocks west of Pulaski. You will easily find parking on the street in front of the school. For more information, call **Dina Zissimopoulos** at ext. 658.

Education Department welcomes new employee

Jackie Ross, popular R&B recording artist (formerly with Chess Records and Brunswick Records), has joined the Community Outreach Division of the Education Department.

After catapulting to fame in the 1960s with her recording of "Selfish One" – two million copies of this hit were sold before going platinum – Jackie toured with the Miracles, the Temptations, Gladys Knight & The Pips, the O'Jays, the Four Tops, B.B. King, and even the Beatles and the Rolling Stones! Jackie's connections to the Chicago music scene are equally impressive; she has worked with Jerry Butler, Sam Cooke, Otis Redding, the Dells, the Chi-Lites, and Minnie Ripperton, to name a few. With MCA Records re-releasing some of her material, you will still find her in the music stores.

Although her future plans include more tours, recording sessions, and working with young artists, we are glad that Jackie has decided to rest her feet with us for a while.

Thanks to all who helped with "Dinosaurs and More"

The Education Department wishes to thank everyone who helped make the October "Dinosaurs and More" Festival a great success. Staff from Visitor Services, Housekeeping, Audio Visual, and Security made sure that everything went smoothly. **Phil Parrillo** and **Dave Willard** were absolute stars; they connected with hundreds of visitors throughout the three-day event. A special thanks is also extended to the volunteers who helped with the event. They facilitated at the "Sue" Prep Lab and in the Life Over Time exhibit and staffed activity stations, which included the new Dinosaur Interpretation Cart. This was the first of nine scheduled "Dinosaurs and More" Festivals for the 1998-99 school year, so watch for more exciting and educational activities.

Thanks to all who helped with Swedish Folk Art exhibit

Swedish Folk Art: All Tradition is Change opens to the public Saturday, October 17. Through the hard work and enthusiasm of several staff members, it promises to be a great success.

Many, many thanks are in order for **Eric Lindveit, Dave Layman,** and **Lori Walsh**, whose dedication to the project was without equal. Other members of the Exhibits Department, including **Abe Bloom, Peter DeRiemer, Nel Fetherling, Steve Furnett, Bruce Heimbuch, Rick Hope, Mike Paha, John Petreikis** and **Trigg Waller** committed their skill to ensure a fantastic installation.

Special thanks also goes to the Conservation Department, including **Ruth Andris, Carole Havlik, Holly Lundberg** and **Christine Thede**, whose precise and patient work cannot be rivaled. The hard work of **Carolyn Byrne** (Public Relations), **Sue Stott** (Educaiton) and **Mary Ann Bloom** (Education) will also not be soon forgotten. Thanks to one and all for a wonderful project and a beautiful installation!

Submitted by **Mia Schillace**

Tuesday At Noon Seminar Series continues

Dr. Jean-Yves DuBuisson of the Department of Paleobotany, Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris, France, spoke to us on "Evolution of Epiphytism and Dwarfism in Filmy Ferns." These generally small ferns live in areas of high rainfall and are distinguished by having leaves only one cell thick. The talk focused on the genus *Trichomanes* with about 350 species, half of which are epiphytes that grow on the branches or trunks of larger plants. Recent molecular analyses indicate that the epiphytic species are an essentially monophyletic assemblage, some of which have become reduced to very small (penny-sized) plants.

Next week's seminar topic is "Strategies for the Future of the Biological Sciences at the University of Chicago" and will be given by Dr. Glenn Steele, Jr., Dean of Biologial Sciences at the Pritzker School of Medicine. The Field Museum and the University of Chicago have been linked by joint programs of graduate education over many decades. This seminar will give us insights into how the University is charting its future development. Please join us in the Zoology classroom at 12 noon on Tuesday, October 20.

Submitted by **Bill Burger**

Thanks for last-minute help at the "Humankind" conference

We'd like to express our appreciation to several staff members for their courteous on-the-spot assistance this past weekend. This includes **Bob Cazy** (A/V) for promptness, initiative and dependability; **Javier Quezada** (Engineering) for emergency lighting; **Sheldon Moy** (Maintenance) for getting an essential hallway cleared; both **Miriam Alleyne** and **Derek McGlorthan** (Security) for opening one door after another; **James Atkinson** (Housekeeping) for advice and hands-on capability in table and seating arrangements; and special thanks to **Robert Harris** (Housekeeping) who, at the last minute, got us our reception drinks. The whole staff of these four departments were helpful in a number of ways; thanks also to **Mentee Teah** (A/V), **Joe Nejasnic** (Engineering), **Johnsie Galloday** and **Jeanette Watson** (Housekeeping); **Andy Bluntson** and **Rich Groh** (Security); and **Carolyn Moon** (Visitor Services) for their efforts. Your cooperation helped the conference glide over many glitches.

Submitted by **Elaine Zeiger** and **John Flynn**

Coming soon: another "Field Good" Brown Bag Seminar

Our Employee Assistance Program company will present another brown bag seminar for staff and volunteers on conflict resolution and negotiating skills needed in both your personal and professional life. Please join us on Thursday, October 22 from noon until 1 p.m. in Dining Room C/D.

Submitted by **Carole Kasarda**

What did our summer visitors REALLY think?

Come to this month's Audience Research Initiative Brown Bag Lunch to learn the results of the summer phase of our current visitor studies research. Our featured speaker will be Owen Shapiro, Senior Analyst at Leo J. Shapiro and Associates, L.L.C.

Audience Research Initiative Brown Bag Lunch
Thursday, October 22 at 12 p.m.
Zoology Classroom, 3rd Floor

For more information, contact Deborah Perry at 986-1134.

Submitted by **Marla Camp**

$$ FINANCE FORUM $$

In answer to a number of questions received lately regarding the procedure for obtaining checks, following are directions for the use of the Check Requisition.

THE FORM:

The check requisition is a three-part form that can be obtained from the Mail Room.

WHEN TO USE THIS FORM:

1. Prepayments of subscription fees for publications not yet received, dues, fees or registration for courses to be attended.
2. Reimbursement for out-of-pocket business expenses exceeding petty cash limits.
3. Travel advances where invoices will not be obtained until travel and expenses are filed.
4. Collect on Delivery transactions (C.O.D.).
5. Special events, overnight performances.
6. Freight & postage.
7. Insurance, taxes, payroll contributions and other miscellaneous payroll deductions.

HOW TO FILL OUT THIS FORM:

Department head/principle investigator authorization signature is required for submission. The approving individual will be responsible for ensuring that the expense is within the applicable budget and correctly coded. The signature of the Vice President is required if the amount is $5,000 or more. All check requisitions made out to yourself must be signed by a supervisor or the Vice President of Finance.

Supporting documents such as invoices and receipts should accompany the check requisition form. If supporting documents are not available until after the check is issued, the supporting documents should be forwarded to Accounts Payable as soon as they are available.

Questions concerning whether a particular transaction should be processed using a check requisition can be directed to Accounts Payable.

On the following page is a sample of a check requisition, and below are instructions for proper filing.

1. Description noting reason for request.
2. Date prepared.
3. Account code numbers against which the advance items are to be charged (fund number, department number, expense account number, project number), e.g. 0000-304-531-0000.
4. Amount of request.
5. Payee's name.
6. Department head/principle investigator authorization signature.

THIS FORM SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO: Accounts Payable – Finance Department.

CHECK REQUISITION AND/OR INVOICE DISTRIBUTION

Description (1)

Has P.O. # Been Issued? Yes _____ No _____ P.O. # _____

Date (2)	Invoice No	Gross	Discount	Net

(3) ACCOUNT NO.	AMOUNT	PAYEE (5)
	$ (4)	

Name

Address

City

State

Total Net $

Approvals

Dept Head/Prin Investigator (6) | Accounting

Please join us on

Friday, October 16 from

3:00 to 4:30 for a sneak preview of

Swedish Folk Art:
All Tradition is Change

The exhibition curators will be here to give a guided tour: one starting at 3:00, the other at 3:30. Or just come on in and take a peek on your own.

Questions? Call Mia at extension 513

NEW STAFF MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS

The Human Resources Department invites all new staff members and volunteers (those who began after April 1998) to attend the Museum's...

NEW STAFF AND VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION
Thursday, October 29, 1998
8:45 a.m. - noon
Lecture Hall II

Join us for coffee and bagels, interesting speakers such as President John McCarter and a behind-the-scenes look at several of the Museum's collections.

Please RSVP to the Human Resources Department (ext. 356)
by Friday, October 23.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!

NOTICE TO ALL EMPLOYEES

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On Wednesday, October 21,
please move your cars
to the Soldier Field lot
by 5:00 p.m.
to facilitate the event
in honor of Peter Crane.

THANK YOU!

Fialkowski receives Urban Environmental Education Award

Carol Fialkowski (ECP) recently returned from Atlanta where she participated in the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) 27th Annual Conference. The forum dealt with environmental education and the urban setting. Carol participated in the following presentations: "Inquiry Models for Urban Teacher Training," "Urban Biodiversity Institutes – A Model That Works!," "A Biodiversity Education Summit!," and "UrbanWatch." While in Atlanta, Carol received the NAAEE Urban Leadership Collaboratives Board Leadership Award. The award is "in recognition of sustained commitment and tireless efforts in the formation and development of the Urban Leadership Collaborative program." Carol has been instrumental in helping to form the urban and multicultural commission of NAAEE and has also co-chaired the commission. In addition, Carol is co-author of *Guidelines for Urban Environmental Education*, a white paper published by NAAEE in *Environmental Education in the United States – Past, Present, and Future*.

Haas attends National Consortium for the Study of Emerging Threats

Jonathan Haas, MacArthur Curator in Anthropology, recently returned from the inaugural meeting of the National Consortium for the Study of Emerging Threats. The Consortium seeks to serve and advance the specific needs of the public and private agencies who share a common concern with emerging threats to the United States and all of humankind. The Consortium recognizes that, with the end of the Cold War, American policymakers are facing an entirely new set of threats to world peace and well-being that lie outside the bounds of past experience. They are, at once, much more diverse and complex and require new and imaginative ways of confronting them. The consortium was initiated to begin to identify these threats and design an interdisciplinary organization for addressing them. Some of the kinds of threats addressed by the group included the spread of new diseases, global warming, environmental degradation, economic inequalities and terrorism.

Asian Ceramics Conference update

The Anthropology Department is putting the final touches on its Asian Ceramics Conference, to be held October 23-25. Among the invited speakers are Kim Young-Won (Konju National Museum, Korea), Trinh Cao Tuong (Institute of Archaeology, Vietnam), Ouyang Shibin (Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute, China), Sayan Prishanchit (Sukhothai Historical Park, Thailand), Peter Holmes (University of Auckland, New Zealand), Pierre-Yves Manguin (Ecole Francaise D'Extreme Orient, France), Miyata Etsuko (Hago Uragami Museum, Japan), Allison Diem (Independent Scholar, Philippines), Hsieh Ming-Liang (National Taiwan University, Taiwan), Lee Heekyung (School of Oriental and African Studies, Britain), Morimoto Asako (Independent Scholar, Japan) and Brian McElney (The Museum of Far Eastern Art, Britain).

A special luncheon lecture will be held on October 25 in the Founder's Room. The topic will be "The Politics of Archaeology in Indonesia" presented by Pierre-Yves Manguin, who has spent the last ten years living and doing archaeological work in Sumatra and Java, and is currently conducting a project in Vietnam. We are very pleased that **Dr. Gary N. Feinman**, the future Chair of the Anthropology Department, will chair the afternoon session on Saturday, Oct. 24.

A reminder: staff and volunteers are welcome to attend the conference. The registration fee is $20; the fee to others outside the Museum is $125. For more information, visit the conference web site at **www.fmnh.org/candr/anthro_sites/acro** or e-mail to **Malcolm Smith** at ho@fmppr.fmnh.org. You may also phone ext. 832 or 569.

Come discuss The Field Museum web sites

Brad Loetel, the Webmaster for the Museum, will be leading two discussions about the Museum's Intranet and web site on October 27 and 29. Each session will consist of two parts: the first hour will be devoted to discussing plans for the Museum's internal web site, the Intranet; the second, to a discussion of the Museum's main web site. A brief presentation will kick off each hour. Feel free to attend one or both days.

Who should attend:

- Those who want the scoop on the Internet.
- Anyone who wants to learn more about our sites(s) and how to use them.
- Anyone interested in developing a web site for either internal or external use.
- Anyone who has comments, questions or suggestions about our web site or others.

Where: Zoology classroom

Dates: Tuesday, October 27 and Thursday, October 29

Schedule (both days): 1-2 p.m.: Intranet discussion, 2-3 p.m.: External web site discussion

Any questions and comments can be directed to Brad via email, bloetel@fmnh.org or by dialing ext. 734.

FAN MAIL

To: Everyone in Chicago

On Sunday we quite literally shook the foundations of The Field Museum. Once again, we made children laugh, we showed the power of our combined energy, and we clearly displayed our prolific, productive capacity. The Nuveen Family Picnic was a great way to continue our celebration of 100 years of investing in Chicago. I hope that all who attended enjoyed the evening (and the night, for those who could not stop the kids from drumming).

The picnic was the first idea developed for our centennial celebration. As I mentioned last evening, over the din of laughter and parading young Nuveen drummers, our families give purpose and meaning to our work. The best way to celebrate our business is to enjoy our families. It was a delight to meet and share the evening with children, spouses, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, friends and neighbors who were able to join our celebration.

Nuveen Day at The Field Museum also extended our process of celebrating our centennial by reinforcing our commitment to community service and support. More than 5,000 people enjoyed Sunday at the Museum with their families thanks to Nuveen.

Special thanks to Jeanne Enright, Steve Foy and Ron Toupin, who organized the evening so well. The picnic was a delight because of their attention to every detail. I'm sure we all especially appreciate their wisdom in scheduling an indoor picnic on a rainy day!

In a time of turmoil throughout the world, when investors are joined in a flight to quality, it's nice to be there already.

Timothy Schwertzfeger
Chairman & CEO
John Nuveen & Co. Incorporated

Natural News

The *Natural News* is edited by **Rodger Patience** in the Development office (ext. 617, patience@fmnh.org) and **Erica Kelly** in the Finance Department (ext. 584, ekelly@fmnh.org). Submissions are welcome via e-mail or on disk in Microsoft Word or WordPerfect format. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday at noon. Remember – write early and often!